

# Jeremiah 50:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them.

## Analysis

**Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon** (לִכְן שִׁמְעוּ עֲצַת יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר יֵעָץ אֶל־בָּבֶל, lakhen shim'u atzat YHWH asher ya'ats el-Bavel)—Repeats 49:20 with Babylon substituted for Edom. The divine atzah (counsel) against Babylon is irrevocable. **And his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans** (מִחֲשָׁבוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁב אֶל־אֶרֶץ כַּשְׁדִּים, machsh'votav asher chashav el-erets Kasdim)—God's 'thoughts/plans' are effective decrees, not tentative ideas.

**Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out** (אִם־לֹא יִסְחָבוּם צְעִירֵי הַצֹּאן, im-lo yischabum tse'irei hatson)—Even the weakest soldiers will drag away Babylon's mighty. This humiliating reversal emphasizes God's power: He needs no elite troops to topple superpowers. **Surely he shall make their habitation desolate with them**—Babylon's dwelling places become ruins. The repetition from chapter 49 demonstrates the universality of God's judicial principles: the same laws govern all nations. Pride brings downfall; oppression invites judgment; idolatry ensures destruction.

## Historical Context

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Cyrus's conquest was relatively easy—Babylon fell without prolonged siege. The 'weakest' troops sufficed because God had decreed Babylon's end. The Nabonidus Chronicle confirms Babylon surrendered without major battle. God's 'counsel' trumps human military calculus.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does the repetition of prophetic oracles across different nations teach about universal moral law?
2. How does the 'weakest of the flock' language deconstruct human pride in military strength?
3. In what ways do God's 'counsels' and 'purposes' differ from human planning and strategy?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכֹן	שְׁמַע וְ	עֲצֵת	יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	יַעַץ
H3651	Therefore hear	ye the counsel	of the LORD	H834	that he hath taken
	H8085	H6098	H3068		H3289
אֶל	בָּבֶל	וּמִן הַשְּׂבוֹתָיו	אֲשֶׁר	חָשַׁב	אֶל
H413	against Babylon	and his purposes	H834	that he hath purposed	H413
	H894	H4284		H2803	
אֶל הָאָרֶץ	כַּשְׂדִּים	אֲמַל	לֹא	יִסְחָבוּם	צָעִיר י
against the land	of the Chaldeans	H518	H3808	shall draw them out	Surely the least
H776	H3778			H5498	H6810
הַצֹּאֵן	אֲמַל	לֹא	יִשְׁמְדוּם	נְהַ:	
of the flock	H518	H3808	desolate	H5921	surely he shall make their habitation
H6629		H8074			H5116

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 49:20** (References Lord): Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.